

Imagine pouring everything you have emotionally and financially into an idea; then you watch it grow and thrive, but, through no fault of your own, it gets ruined because your local government shuts you down and the Federal Government refuses to help.

The Speaker can solve this problem today by allowing a vote to unleash over \$130 billion in already-appropriated leftover PPP funding.

In addition, the House should immediately consider the Small Business Expense Protection Act, which was introduced by my friend and fellow North Carolinian, GEORGE HOLDING. That bill would clarify the confusion at the IRS and make sure that recipients can deduct PPP-financed expenses on their taxes.

Mr. Speaker, for the sake of our Nation's job creators and for the sake of our workers, it is time that we act to support our fellow citizens as we enter the final stages of our battle against this virus.

RECOGNIZING COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Computer Science Education Week. In 2009, this opportunity for awareness was established to highlight the many ways computer science education benefits individuals as well as entire industries.

Computer Science Education Week is a chance for students of all ages to learn about the importance and benefits of computer science and the endless professional opportunities that abound with a skills-based education.

I am co-chair of the bipartisan Career and Technical Education Caucus, and it has been a pleasure to work across the aisle to support important educational programs like investments in computer science.

Our Nation is in desperate need of skilled workers, and career and technical education is a win-win. It can offer rewarding professional futures for learners of all ages, while simultaneously closing the Nation's skills gap.

An industry that can particularly benefit from a skilled workforce, and especially those trained in computer science, is cybersecurity.

H.R. 1592, the Cybersecurity Skills Integration Act, is a bill I am proud to cosponsor with my Career and Technical Education Caucus co-chair, Congressman JIM LANGEVIN from Rhode Island.

The Cybersecurity Skills Integration Act seeks to develop a critical infrastructure workforce that is well-trained to handle cyber threats from bad actors. H.R. 1592 authorizes \$10 million to create a competitive grant program within the Department of Education to incorporate cybersecurity

education into new and existing career and technical education programs. The bill also requires the Department of Education to coordinate with the Department of Homeland Security to better support cybersecurity education programs.

COVID-19 demonstrated how much we rely on a skilled and trained workforce, and sadly, the personal lives and careers of many Americans have been uprooted as a result of the virus. Far too many people lost their jobs through no fault of their own. That is why I was eager to be an original cosponsor of H.R. 7032, the Skills Renewal Act.

This legislation would help displaced workers gain new skills and advance their careers upon reentry into the workforce. The bill would create a \$4,000 fully refundable skills training credit to cover a wide range of career and technical education programs.

Mr. Speaker, we need a workforce that can meet modern technical demands, and students who choose a career in technical education are best suited for that challenge. Through career and technical educational programs like computer science, we can begin to close our Nation's skills gap and help individuals restore the rungs on the ladder of opportunity.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 13 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Loving and gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We ask today that You bless the Members of the people's House to be the best and most faithful servants of the people they serve.

As this second session of the 116th Congress draws near its end, and legislative business once again weighs heavily on this Hill, withhold not Your spirit of wisdom and truth from this assembly. Give each Member clarity of thought and purity of motive, so that they may render their service as their best selves.

In this time of waiting, as people of faith prepare for holy celebrations, bless our Nation with peace and good will. May all Americans, of whatever faith or background, work together to build a commonweal—something which

can only be accomplished by Your grace.

May all that is done this day in the peoples' House be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4(a) of House Resolution 967, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ROBERT KRESSE

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Robert Kresse, a western New York champion for those who had none. Bob Kresse combined his lawyerly skills for estates and historic preservation to become a powerful force for good in Buffalo for 70 years.

Bob Kresse knew well that his vision went beyond the bricks and mortar of preservation; it was the restorative power of preservation on the hearts of the people and the community that he loved that mattered most.

Bob Kresse is survived by his beautiful family, including his beloved wife of 56 years, Mary Ann. Bob would often say that Mary Ann didn't just love him back; she was his chief collaborator and best friend always, especially in those last, most difficult days.

The Niagara River Greenway, the King Urban Life Center, the Roycroft, and the Darwin Martin House, among so many others, have a common thread, and that is Bob Kresse's uncommon vision, love, and perseverance.

NATIONAL ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE STRATEGY

(Mr. HURD of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)